



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:
Molly Sander, MPH
Immunization Program Manager
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.4556
E-mail: msander@nd.gov

North Dakota Receives Award at National Immunization Conference

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health received an award at the National Immunization Conference held last week for being one of three states with the most improved immunization rates since 2003 for six routinely recommended vaccines, according to Molly Sander, Immunization Program manager. The Department of Health received the same award last year.

The six recommended vaccines on which the award was based prevent against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, polio and chickenpox. In 2003, the immunization rate for North Dakota children ages 19 months to 35 months was 63.1 percent. In 2006, the North Dakota immunization rate for the same vaccines was 80.1 percent, an increase of 17 percent since 2003.

“As a state, it is important that we remain vigilant in ensuring that all infants are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases,” said Molly Sander. “Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child’s health-care provider to ensure that their infant is up-to-date on immunizations.”

The following health-care providers and local public health units achieved 85 percent vaccination coverage or better in 2007 for children younger than 2. (It is important to note that not all providers in the state receive a site visit and or assessed each year.)

- Q&R Family Practice – Bismarck
- Altru Health Clinic Pediatrics – Grand Forks
- Altru Health Clinic Family Medicine – Grand Forks
- Hettinger Clinic – Hettinger
- Innovis Clinic – Wahpeton

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

- St. Alexius Missouri Slope Clinic – Beulah
- Innovis Clinic South University – Fargo
- Trinity Community Clinic – Williston
- Clinicare – Cavalier
- Lake Region District Health Unit Benson County – Minnewaukan
- Lake Region District Health Unit Eddy County – New Rockford
- Indian Health Services – Belcourt

In 2007, the immunization program started the “Most Improved Immunization Rates” award for clinics that increased their immunization rates by 10 percent or more since their last immunization site visit. The following clinics received the award in 2007:

- Innovis Clinic – Wahpeton
- Family Medical Center North – Bismarck
- MeritCare Island Park – Fargo
- Wishek Clinic – Wishek
- Lake Region District Health Unit Eddy County – New Rockford
- Grand Forks Public Health Unit – Grand Forks
- Sargent County District Health Unit – Forman

Also new in 2007 is the “Immunizations: Tradition of Excellence” award. The following providers achieved vaccination rates of 85 percent or more in three out of the last five years:

- Medcenter One Health Systems – Dickinson
- Medcenter One Q&R Pediatrics – Bismarck
- Altru Health Clinic Pediatrics – Grand Forks
- Altru Health Clinic Family Medicine – Grand Forks
- MeritCare Medical Group – Fargo

For more information, contact Molly Sander, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4556 or msander@nd.gov.

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